

# Stories of Repentance

Compiled by

**Muhammad Abduh Mughâwiri**

Edited by

**Abdul Ahad (Alig.)**

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Head Office:

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416, K.S.A. Tel: 00966-01-4033962/4043432 Fax: 4021659  
E-mail: darussalam@awalnet.net.sa Website: [http:// www.dar-us-salam.com](http://www.dar-us-salam.com)

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572 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn

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Mobile: 0044-794 730 6706 Fax: 0044-208 521 7645

• **Darussalam International Publications Limited**

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• **Darussalam**

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Birmingham, B10 0UF

Tel: 0121 77204792 Fax: 0121 772 4345

E-mail: [info@darussalamuk.com](mailto:info@darussalamuk.com)

Web: [www.darussalamuk.com](http://www.darussalamuk.com)

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E-mail: [idsm@ion.co.za](mailto:idsm@ion.co.za)

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## Introduction

All praise is for Allâh, Lord of all that exists. O Allâh, send prayers and salutations upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions, and all those who follow his way until the Last Day.

Allâh (ﷻ) said:

﴿قُلْ يٰعِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ۝٥٣﴾

*"Say: 'O 'Ibâdî (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allâh, Verily Allâh forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'"*<sup>[1]</sup>

Indeed, Allâh (ﷻ) has opened the door of repentance to every sinner. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى فَإِنِّي أَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى فِي الْيَوْمِ مِائَةً مَرَّةً»

*"O people, repent to Allâh (ﷻ), for indeed, I repent to Allâh (ﷻ) 100 times every day."*<sup>[2]</sup>

It is truly encouraging to know that the door to repentance is always open, but what is more, Allâh (ﷻ) is actually happy when one of His slaves repents. It is important to note here that the keys to repentance are that a sinner must

<sup>[1]</sup> Qur'ân 39:53.

<sup>[2]</sup> Muslim: 2702.



desist from his sin, feel regret for having perpetrated it, and then make a firm resolve not to return to it.

Who among us does not sin? And who among us does all that is required of him in the religion? It is an undeniable fact that we all have shortcomings; what distinguishes some of us from the others, what raises some of us above the others, is that the successful ones among us are those who repent their sins and ask Allâh (ﷻ) to forgive them.

Sadly, some people are guilty of thinking in this manner: "Those I see around me perpetrate minor sins, while I am guilty of perpetrating major sins, so what is the use of repenting!" True, such a person does well by finding fault with his own self, yet he makes a grave, ruinous error when he loses hope, when he underestimates Allâh's Forgiveness and Mercy. To be sure, the door of repentance is open both to the perpetrator of minor sins and to the perpetrator of major sins. In regard to repentance, the following beautiful *Hadîth* should inspire hope in us all: Ibn Mas'ûd (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«اللَّهُ أَفْرَحُ بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ مِنْ رَجُلٍ نَزَلَ بِأَرْضٍ دَوِيَّةٍ مَهْلِكَةٍ مَعَهُ رَاحِلَتُهُ  
فَنَامَ وَاسْتَيْقَظَ وَقَدْ ذَهَبَتْ رَاحِلَتُهُ فَطَلَبَهَا حَتَّى إِذَا أَدْرَكَهُ الْمَوْتُ  
قَالَ: أَرْجِعْ إِلَى الْمَكَانِ الَّذِي ضَلَلْتُهَا فِيهِ وَأَمُوتْ، فَأَتَى مَكَانَهُ  
فَغَلَبَتْهُ عَيْنُهُ فَاسْتَيْقَظَ وَإِذَا رَاحِلَتُهُ عِنْدَ رَأْسِهِ فِيهَا طَعَامُهُ وَشَرَابُهُ وَزَادُهُ  
وَمَا يَصْلُحُهُ فَاللَّهُ أَشَدُّ فَرَحًا بِتَوْبَةِ عَبْدِهِ الْمُؤْمِنِ مِنْ هَذَا بِرَاحِلَتِهِ  
وَزَادِهِ»

*"Indeed, Allâh is more happy with the repentance of His slave than a man who stops in a barren, desolate land;*

*with him he has his riding animal. He then goes to sleep. When he wakes up, (he realizes that) his mount is gone. He searches out for it until he is on the verge of dying (for the mount was carrying his supplies and provisions). He then says, 'I will return to the place wherein I lost it, and I will die there.'* He went to that place, and he was then overcome by sleep. When he woke up, his mount was (standing) right beside his head: on it (still) was his food, his drink, his provisions, and the things he needed. Allâh is more happy with the repentance of his believing slave than the aforementioned man when (he finds) his mount and his provisions.'<sup>[1]</sup>

This *Hadîth* clearly illustrates that no one should become so hopeless that he refrains from repenting to Allâh (ﷻ). In the early pages of this book, I will relate to you some stories that illustrate the vastness of Allâh's Mercy. Glad tidings, then, to every Muslim who constantly and consistently hastens to repent to Allâh (ﷻ) and to ask for His Forgiveness.

I sincerely hope that you will benefit from this book. And I ask Allâh (ﷻ) to grant all of us knowledge, action, and success in both abodes – the abode of this world and the eternal abode of the Hereafter.

The author,  
Muhammad Abduh Mughâwiri

<sup>[1]</sup> Al-Bukhari: 6308 and Muslim: 2744



## The Mercy of Allâh

To all confused and hopeless souls do I present this *Hadîth*, which makes clear to us the vast Mercy of Allâh (ﷻ) and encourages us to repent to Him:

Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

«كَانَ فِيْمَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ رَجُلٌ قَتَلَ تِسْعَةً وَتِسْعِينَ نَفْسًا، فَسَأَلَ عَنْ أَعْبَدِ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ فَدُلَّ عَلَى رَاهِبٍ فَأَتَاهُ. فَقَالَ: إِنَّهُ قَتَلَ تِسْعَةً وَتِسْعِينَ نَفْسًا فَهَلْ لَهُ مِنْ تَوْبَةٍ؟ قَالَ: لَا. فَقَتَلَهُ وَأَكْمَلَ بِهِ الْمِائَةَ، ثُمَّ سَأَلَ عَنْ أَكْلَمِ أَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ فَدُلَّ عَلَى رَجُلٍ عَالِمٍ فَأَتَاهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: إِنَّهُ قَدْ قَتَلَ مِائَةَ نَفْسٍ فَهَلْ لَهُ مِنْ تَوْبَةٍ؟ قَالَ: نَعَمْ، وَمَنْ يَحُولُ بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَ التَّوْبَةِ؟ انْطَلِقْ إِلَى أَرْضٍ كَذَا وَكَذَا، فَإِنَّ بِهَا أَنْاسًا يَعْبُدُونَ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى مَعَهُمْ وَلَا تَرْجِعْ إِلَى أَرْضِكَ فَإِنَّهَا أَرْضُ سَوْءٍ، فَاَنْطَلَقَ حَتَّى كَانَ نَصَفَ الطَّرِيقِ أَدْرَكَهُ الْمَوْتُ، فَاخْتَصَمَتْ فِيهِ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّحْمَةِ وَمَلَائِكَةُ الْعَذَابِ، فَقَالَتْ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّحْمَةِ: جَاءَنَا تَائِبًا مُقْبِلًا بِقَلْبِهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، وَقَالَتْ مَلَائِكَةُ الْعَذَابِ: إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ خَيْرًا قَطُّ، فَأَتَاهُمْ مَلَكٌ فِي صُورَةِ آدَمِيٍّ فَحَكَمُوهُ بَيْنَهُمْ، فَقَالَ: قِيسُوا مَا بَيْنَ الْأَرْضَيْنِ فَإِلَى أَيَّتِهِمَا كَانَ أَذْنَى فَهُوَ أَقْرَبُ لَهَا، فَقَاسُوهُ فَوَجَدُوهُ أَذْنَى إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي أَرَادَ فَقَبَضَتْهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّحْمَةِ»

“Among those who came before you was a man who killed

99 people. He then asked to be guided to the most prolific worshiper from the inhabitants of earth, and he was directed to a monk. He went to him and told him that he had killed 99 people, and he asked whether it was possible for him to repent. The Monk said, ‘No.’ The man killed him, thus making him his 100th (victim). He then asked to be directed to the most knowledgeable of earth’s inhabitants, and he was guided to a scholar. He went to him and told him that he had killed 100 people, and he asked whether it was possible for him to repent. The scholar said, ‘Yes, and who will stand between you and repentance. Go to such and such land, for in it dwell a people who worship Allâh (ﷻ), so go and worship Allâh (ﷻ) with them. And do not return to your land, for it is indeed a land of evil.’ He left, and when he reached the halfway point of his journey, he died. The angels of Mercy and the angels of Punishment disputed with one another (in regard to his case). The angels of Mercy said, ‘He came to us repentant, advancing with his heart towards Allâh (ﷻ).’ But the angels of Punishment said, ‘Indeed, he never performed any good deeds.’ Then an angel came in the form of a human being, and both groups of angels asked him to judge between them. He said, ‘Measure the distance between the two lands. Whichever land he is closer to is the land that he is closer to (in terms of being of its people). They then measured the distance and found that he was closer to the land that he was heading towards, and so it was the angels of Mercy who then took his soul.’<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Al-Bukhari: 3470 and Muslim: 2766.